sustainable alternative forms of employment opportunities to people dependent on forests;

—Recognising the importance of the involvement of people at the local level in conservation, management and sustainable development of forest resources;

—Supporting education, training and extension initiatives and assured access to technology through international cooperation to strengthen national capability for forest management;

—Determining methodologies for the economic valuation of goods and services provided, by forests, including, *inter-alia* traditional knowledge and technologies biological, diversity, scguc-stration of carbon other ecological process; and the foregone opportunity costs;

—Increasing financial assistance provided by the developed countries and international organisations, including a restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF), to sustain investment in the forestry sector in developing countries, within a given time frame through transparent mechanisms, to assist and meet the incremental costs incurred to implement sustainable development;

—Facilitating open and free international trade in forest products through removal of unilateral and discriminatory measures that impede market access, while ensuring that the sustainabtlity criteria on forest management is equitably applied to all .types-of timber.

In order to ensure productivity discussion in the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1995 on forest issues, we deem it necessary to address immediately the provision of new and additional financial resources and access to technologies by developing countries to enable them to implement effectively the Forest Principles, in accordance with the relevant principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21. For this purpose, the Commission on Sustainable Development at its next session should identify an appropriate mechanism within the United Nations system.

We believe that in making these proposals the Delhi Declaration is a direct follow up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and another step forward towards the regreening of the earth.

Indo-UK agreement on forestry

1596. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and UK have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on forestry;

(b) if so, whether the Indo-UK Agreement on forestry for promoting the forestry principles finalised at UNCED in Rio last year;

(c) if so, the details of the Agreement; and

(d) to what extent UK has agreed to help and assist Indian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) India and the United Kingdom have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on forestry issues on 13th September, 1993. This MOU recognizes the importance of the Non-legally binding Forest Principles and the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development in implementing these Principles. The MOU also recognizes the position taken by several developing countries on forestry issues and reflected in the Delhi Declaration on Forests issues by the First Ministerial Conference of the Forestry Forum of Developing Countries on 3rd September, 1993. India and the UK arc presently engaged in implementing the MOU, especially the clauses related to the review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of forestry issues in 1995, and the possibilities of increased bilateral cooperation.